



# NEWS

## R E L E A S E

**RALPH HUDGENS**  
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE  
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER  
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER

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### HUDGENS: ELBERTON COUNTY FATAL FIRE RULED ACCIDENTAL

**Atlanta** – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens said a home fire last Friday afternoon that took the life of an Elbert County woman was caused by the improper use of a fireplace.

Anita Boyd, 49, died in the fire, which occurred at her home located in the 2400 block of Sanders Road in Elberton, Ga. The fire call came in around noon.

Fire investigators determined that Boyd overloaded her fireplace with wood causing the fire screen to be unsecured, which allowed embers to escape and ignite combustibles.

Hudgens said the home was a total loss, with damage estimated at \$50,000.

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